

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2001

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
John Curtis
Richard Wheatley
Bill Sharp
Bernadette Whitaker
Pete Sizer
Dave Prince

Apologies: Pat Walters, Dave Ballard, Rick Boardman.

In Attendance: Tony Butler - Technical Officer
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observer: Phil Cavanagh.

ITEM

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

John Curtis nominated Paul Applegate as Chairperson of the Committee for a further year. This was seconded by Bill Sharp and unanimously agreed by those present.

Carried Unanimously

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 7TH DECEMBER 2000

Page 3, Item 5. John Curtis advised the meeting that he had been contacted by the Rigger who held an American rigger rating who wished to become BPA rated. John stated that he would check out his qualifications and decide on what course of action he should follow.

John Curtis expressed his concern at the length of time it was taking for the Riggers Manual to be written. A letter from Rick Boardman also expressing his concern that this project was long over due had been circulated to those present.

The Committee was surprised that they had not had as yet, received a copy of the Manual in draft format and as Allan Hewitt could not be contacted on this matter, it could not be established how far he had got with the project and whether he required any assistance to get it completed.

The Chairman advised the meeting that John Harding had written a form of Manual, which may be of assistance to the Committee. Pete Sizer advised those present that three years ago he had produced a training manual, as part of his Advanced rating, which the Committee may also find helpful.

John Curtis suggested that prior to the next Riggers meeting there is a meeting of Rigger Examiners to deal with the Examiners section of the manual.

The Chairman stated that he would try to contact Rigger Examiners to see if they would be available to attend this meeting.

Action: P.Applegate

Page 3, Item 8 – AOB (i). Paul Applegate advised those present that at the previous meeting a number of Tandem clearance requests put forward by Andy Guest had been discussed by the Committee. A letter had been received by Andy Guest concerning this matter, which had been circulated to those present. Mr Guest had stated that the Minutes had not accurately recorded that the following Tandem clearance requests had been accepted by the Committee:

- i) Permission to be able to put a Vector Tandem reserve in a Next Tandem system subject to getting an Advanced Rigger confirming that this was ok.
- ii) Permission to have his Vector Tandem systems altered to the Paratec cutaway with secondary handle attached.

The Committee agreed that the above wording confirmed the correct Minute.

The Committee was advised that a letter had been received from Chris Thomas confirming that the Next Tandem container belonging to Mr Guest will except the EZ 384 main parachute and the Vector 360 reserve.

The Chairman advised those present that Mr Guest had also requested in his letter that the following items be voted on and accepted by the Committee:-

- i) That Tandem drogues being interchangeable.
- ii) That Tandem student harnesses being interchangeable.

The Committee agreed that they were unable to vote on the above items that evening as they had not been circulated with the Agenda prior to the meeting and that a formal request would need to be submitted by Andy Guest prior to the next agenda going out.

With the above amendment, it was proposed by Bernadette Whitaker and seconded by John Curtis that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee Meeting of the 7th December 2000 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 7TH DECEMBER 2000

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

4. TANDEM MODIFICATION CLEARANCE REQUEST – BILL SHARP

A letter had been circulated with the Riggers Agenda from Bill Sharp requesting a Tandem modification clearance.

The equipment was a Tandem Vector and Bill Sharp asked permission to use 'webbing/tape extensions handles' to the existing passenger harness quick release buckles, for aiding the release by the Tandem Instructor.

It was proposed by Bill Sharp and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above modification be accepted for general use on Tandem Vector equipment.

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Bernadette Whitaker)

Carried

5. TANDEM MODIFICATIONS

A discussion paper concerning Tandem modifications from Bill Sharp had been previously circulated with the Agenda.

Mr Sharp had written his paper because of his concerns following an item discussed at the last meeting with regard to a Tandem clearance request, which had been dealt with under AOB.

The Committee then went on to discuss previous Tandem Modifications:-

In the past, most of the BPA Approved Tandem Modifications were either cleared for individuals or specific Clubs and Centres. The Rigging Committee agreed that many of these previous clearances could be made available for use by all, once the Rigging Committee had specifically looked at each modification in turn. To this end the following was proposed;

That any Tandem system owner could now incorporate 'cleared for all' Tandem modifications into/onto their system, without further approval from the Rigging Committee subject to the following conditions being met:

- 1) An appropriately rated rigger, (suitably qualified to approve the specific modification) must inspect and issue paperwork to the rig owner, stating that the previously cleared modification, is the same as the original clearance, is safe to use and is compatible with the 'new' system.
- 2) The exact particulars of the original clearance still stand. *(If the original clearance was for a Vector 360 reserve into a Tandem Next container, then anyone with the appropriate paperwork can put a Vector 360 reserve into a Tandem Next container. There is no authority for putting the reserve into any other container unless previously cleared.)*

Proposed by: Bill Sharp

Seconded by: Dave Prince

Carried

The 'in brief' list of all Approved Tandem Modifications was sent out with the Feb 2001 Agenda. Listed below in brief, and in date order, is the result of whether the Rigging Committee cleared or did not clear a particular modification for general use. *(Subject to the above conditions of appropriate paperwork etc being met)*

APPROVED TANDEM MODIFICATIONS (In Brief)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
May 94 of	Protective pads sewn on to the Tandem Strong container at the side of passenger attachment points to prevent damage. (Cleared for all)
May 94	Change made to Tandem Strong drogue release riser as per drawing supplied. (NOT CLEARED for general use)
Jun 94	The use of a Tandem Galaxy drogue and deployment bag on a Tandem Vector container with the modifications as presented. (NOT CLEARED for general use)
Jun 94	Material tags added to the passenger anchor points of a Tandem Vector passenger harness. (Cleared for all)
Aug 94	To use a RSL changed to 1 pin system, change main closure from cable to pin on the Tandem Galaxy . (NOT CLEARED for general use)
May 95	Approval for Tandem Elite .
Prior to 96	Approval for Tandem Aircare . (Also see Riggers minutes, Oct 98)
Feb 96	Approval for Tandem Atom . (Also see Riggers minutes, Dec 96)
Aug 96	Use a Tandem Strong passenger harness with a Tandem Galaxy container with changes as presented. (NOT CLEARED for general use)
Jul 97	For Red Devils to use yellow reserve handle on their Tandem Vector . (Cleared for all but only if jumpsuit/cutaway handle blend in colour)
Sept 97	Clearance of the Tandem Ultra Next system.
Sept 97	3 x Clearances specifically for Andy Parkin's Tandem Vector . (NOT CLEARED for general use) .
Jun 98	To use double Teflon cable to replace Tandem Vector curved pin. (Cleared for all)
Jun 98	Approval for 'Wings Unlimited' canopies to be used in Tandem Next systems. (Cleared for all)
Aug 98	Tandem Vector Student harness for use with Tandem Atom . (Cleared for all)
Oct 98	Approval of Tandem Atom for use with chest mounted secondary drogue release handle. (Cleared for all)
Feb 99	To use a PD360 reserve in a Tandem Atom . (Cleared for all)

- Apr 99 To use a Paratec Next drogue assembly with a Relative Workshop **Tandem Vector** Container system. **(Cleared for all)**
- Jun 99 **Strong Tandem** system with the drogue release position as per Tandem Vector system. **(NOT CLEARED for general use)**
- Oct 99 Relative Workshop Vector Tandem Drogue into a **Tandem Next** system. **(Cleared for all)**
- Oct 99 **Tandem Vector** type looped cutaway handle to accept a Next drogue release cable. **(NOT CLEARED for general use)**
- Dec 99 Any **Tandem Main** into any **Tandem Container** IMPORTANT See full wording in Part 2 - Tandem - General section.
- Sep 00 To fit Paratec handle to **Tandem Vector**. (only for Dave Ballard's and APA's Tandem Vector systems) **(NOT CLEARED for general use)**
- Dec 00 To use a Vector 360 Tandem Reserve in a Paratec **Tandem Next** system. **(Cleared for all)**

General Clarification

- 1) **Not all** previously cleared Tandem modifications have been cleared for general use.
- 2) All previous approvals for **Tandem Main canopies** into particular **Tandem Container systems** have been removed from the above Approved Tandem Modification list. The authority for this is as per BPA Safety Information Bulletin 1/2000.
- 3) Previously approved Tandem Modifications now marked with 'Cleared for all' are now approved for use by all, subject to having the stated paperwork from an appropriately rated rigger. (Authority is the minutes of the Rigging Committee meeting Feb 2001)
- 4) Previously approved Tandem modifications marked 'NOT CLEARED for general use' are still only to be used by the person or organisation stated in the original clearance. *It was thought that the items that were not cleared required better information than was readily available at present, in order to open up that particular modification for all tandem users. These items can still be cleared again in the future through the Rigging Committee.*
- 5) Individuals/Centres etc who got the original clearance for the modifications from the Rigging Committee, do not require the modification approval paperwork as their particular authority is the relevant Rigging Committee minutes of that meeting. It would assist matters however, if these individuals could comply with the above paperwork in order to move towards one system.

FUTURE TANDEM MODIFICATIONS APPLICATIONS

Recently a Tandem Modification request was dealt with in a way that caused a lot of confusion. To stop this from happening in the future, it was agreed that the following points, most of which have been agreed in past Rigging Committee meetings, are to be adhered to when requesting clearances for Tandem Modifications.

- 1) Tandem Modifications will only be dealt with by the Rigging Committee if they are previously notified as an Agenda item. *(This is to allow full investigation and research etc to be done, by all concerned prior to the meeting)*
- 2) An official 'Tandem Modification Application' form is in the process of being made and hopefully this will be cleared at the next Rigging Committee Meeting. When it is properly available, all future Tandem Modification Applications are to use this form. The form will indicate the details required, and will have sufficient space available so that the modification can be properly explained and documented. This will allow that particular modification can be opened up to all tandem users without further recourse to the Rigging Committee.
- 3) Whenever possible, the applicant should try to bring the 'modified system' to the particular Rigging Committee meeting concerned. The item will not be formally inspected at the table, (this will already have been done) but it could be helpful with your request so as the riggers around the table, who are voting to clear your application, fully understand your modification.
- 4) If the Rigging Committee require further information or a further inspection/test jump etc, then the formal modification clearance does not come into effect until the requested further info etc is formally reported back to the Rigging Committee. Please do your homework.

The Committee thanked Bill Sharp for the work that he had put into this item.

John Harding arrived at 5.30pm

6. ADVANCED PACKERS EXAMINATION COURSE REPORT

A report had been received from Dave Chapman stating that Gordon McConnell and Jason Freeman had successfully completed the Advanced Packers Examination Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer Grade (S) status.

7. SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been one BPA Safety Information Bulletin 01/2001 issued since the last meeting. This had been issued following an incident where a potential FXC 12000 AAD calibration problem had been highlighted.

8. MANUFACTURERS SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

Since the last meeting a product service bulletin had been circulated from Jump Shack which concerned all Racer Reserve Free Bags (Reserve Suspension Line Stows).

There was some concern expressed by those present over the removal of the existing line stow pouch as recommended on this service bulletin.

John Curtis stated that he would contact Jump Shack to voice the Committee's concerns over this bulletin.

9. A.O.B

- i) Bill Sharp presented a set of equipment and asked the Committee for clearance of Student AFF secondary handle.

The Committee briefly inspected the modification, but agreed that as it involved Student equipment, this request would need to be discussed as a main Agenda item. The Committee therefore asked that Mr Sharp submit full details of his request, together with drawings of the proposed modification for distribution with the next Agenda.

- ii) John Curtis advised the Committee that he had received a request from a jumper to undertake the Advanced Packing examination. There were no objections raised to this request.

- iii) John Curtis expressed his concern with regard to items being tabled for discussion under AOB. He felt that all items should be discussed on the main Agenda unless they were minor items for information.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5th April 2001
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.
4.00 p.m.

25th February 2001

Distribution

Chairperson Riggers Committee
Chairman STC
All CCIs
All Riggers
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